



November 6, 2005

United States Department of Agriculture
Attn: Secretary Mike Johanns, Farm Bill
1400 Independence Ave, SW.
Washington, DC 20250-3355

Re: Farm Bill Forum response, questions 1-6

Dear Secretary Johanns,

Thank you for the opportunity to address questions and concerns about the upcoming farm bill. I received a letter from the local NRCS office, (enclosed), soliciting input.

- 1 We should use our ability to produce food and fiber as a strategic weapon. When other countries exploit their natural resources, (oil, labor, etc.), to wage economic war, we should respond in kind.
- 2 I do not think that any government program should be created, or continued that either encourages or discourages farmers from producing. That is a function of free markets. No tax dollars should be spent in order to preserve or encourage a particular lifestyle. Farming is a business, undertaken by free will, not a religion or calling.
- 3 There should be no distribution of assistance, unless truly "natural", non-commercially insurable catastrophes befall a producer.
- 4 There are plenty of rules, regulations, laws, and guidelines already existing to achieve conservation and environmental goals. Enforce what we have.
- 5 See answers to questions 1-4
- 6 Product development, marketing and research-related issues are private market functions. Let the private market devote the time and resources, and therefore reap the results of product development, marketing and research.

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Thank you for your time and interest. I remain staunchly against farm programs that continue to have consequences for the average taxpayer. As a third generation, corporate farmer, in a largely un-supported industry, I am galled at the buckets of money that are thrown at a relatively small special interest group. Market economics should dictate farm policy, not the other way around. Farmers have the ability to make production decisions relative to the prices received. Quit treating them like Neanderthal business dunces.

Please contact me directly if you have any further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GH' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Enclosures

Cc: David L. McKay
Arizona Congressional Delegation
United Egg Producers